



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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## **GOING TO PRISON... VOLUNTARILY!**

### **Governor Patton Proclaims Corrections Volunteer Week**

**FRANKFORT, KY** – Imagine spending your free time behind bars. That's what more than 1,500 Kentuckians did last year as volunteers in 15 correctional institutions across the state.

Today, hundreds of these volunteers were honored in Frankfort. During a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda, Governor Paul E. Patton signed the proclamation, which designated April 18-24 as *Kentucky Department of Corrections Volunteer Week*, in conjunction with the observance of National Volunteer Week.

Governor Patton praised the volunteers for their efforts and dedication. The proclamation, in part, paid tribute to all volunteers as one of Kentucky's greatest resources.

"These are unselfish people who recognize the value their volunteerism has for other people," said Governor Patton. "It is my hope that, by their example, they encourage others to volunteer so an example will be set for future generations."

Volunteers have assisted inmates with parenting skills and hospice training. They have offered the inmates insight into the causes of domestic violence while providing them with the tools to overcome it. Some volunteers have spent time teaching technical skills to inmates, while others conducted ministerial services and programs at the institutions.

**(more)**

"These volunteers donated more than 65,000 hours of their precious time and talents providing various services within our institutions," said Doug Sapp, Commissioner of the Department of Corrections. "Through their generosity, they have made a positive impact on the lives of those they serve and the Department of Corrections has benefited greatly," he added.

Outside of the prison walls, through the fundraising efforts of corrections volunteers, new programs were created and facilities such as chapels were built; therefore, reducing costs to taxpayers.

Hanging in the Rotunda during today's ceremony was a quilt made by a special Girl Scout Troop and their mothers who reside at the Kentucky Correctional Institute for Women (KCIW). Many of these women never had used a needle and thread in the creative process and many never had worked side-by-side with their daughters before.

Governor Patton added, "The volunteers and staff who helped create the unique Girl Scouts Behind Bars Program is a terrific example of the work being done by these dedicated citizens who help provide a better future for all Kentuckians."

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